

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

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COUNTRY	USSR (Arkhangelsk Oblast)	REPORT	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] two naval vessels were off Sawmill 25X1  
16/17, enroute in toward Solombala. One [redacted] was  
about 100 feet long, and had a clipper bow, and an unshielded antiaircraft  
gun on the forecastle. It had a combination bridge structure and engine  
housing, and a break in the deck at the forward edge of the bridge  
which was slightly raked. The after edge of the engine housing was  
perpendicular. There were two pole masts atop the housing; the  
foremast had a network radar at the truck; the mainmast had a yard.  
There were two low funnels, one forward of each mast, a flat afterdeck,  
and a stern that curved toward the waterline. On each side of the  
stern there were torpedo-shaped mines or depth charges in two groups,  
one of six and one of four. Forward of each group stood a small  
automatic gun, scarcely an antiaircraft gun. The other vessel [redacted]  
[redacted] had a steel hull, was smaller [redacted] 25X1  
and had a raked bow, a break in the deck at the forward edge of the  
bridge, and a combined bridge structure [redacted] 25X1  
There was one low funnel between the masts, one automatic gun  
on the afterdeck, and nine mines of the kind described above on each  
side of the stern, five forward and four abaft the automatic gun.  
[redacted] in the same place, there were four  
naval vessels enroute to Solombala. 25X1
2. [redacted] there were three submarines near 25X1  
Danilov Island (N66-44, E41-08). They were sailing on a northwesterly  
course, in column, with about one nautical mile intervals, at a low  
speed. All were identical. Each had one gun in the forward end of the  
conning tower. [redacted] five small naval vessels 25X1  
were in column due north of the Severnaya Dvina Lightship on a southerly  
25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

25X1

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	Ev	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC								
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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25X1

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course at a speed of about ten knots. All were identical, and at least 50 feet long with flush decks. Each had a bridge with a signal mast, a small funnel, and some objects resembling torpedoes in a vertical position on the afterdeck. On vessels of this type observed in Arkhangelsk, there was an "iron sausage" welded on above the waterline on both sides of the bow. A column of four such vessels was observed making a turn in the harbor; each vessel sailed exactly in the wake of the preceding one. The lead vessel executed a signal hoist when it turned; No. 2 executed its hoist a little later; No. 3 did not execute the signal hoist; and No. 4 executed its hoist when it turned.

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3. [redacted] at the naval station at Solombala there were 22 identical minesweepers [redacted]

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[redacted] They were about 100 feet long, with a raked bow, a raised fore-castle, a break in the deck at the after edge of the bridge, and a square stern rounded toward the waterline. Each had a shield on the fore-castle; a two-deck open bridge, the top deck slightly shorter than the bottom one; a signal mast at the after edge of the bridge; a single-mounted antiaircraft gun on each side of the bridge forward of the mast; a low raked funnel; a gun in a shield on a carriage (sic) abaft the funnel; a winch drum and paravanes on the afterdeck; and davits on each side of the stern. (See Sketch No. 1) Also at Solombala, there were seven naval vessels [redacted]

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25X1

[redacted] They were about 120 feet in length, had trimmer lines than the minesweepers, a raked bow, a low fore-castle, a break in the deck at the middle of a two-deck bridge, and a pointed stern which went straight down toward the waterline. Each had a signal mast at the bulkhead on the uppermost bridge deck, an antiaircraft gun on each side of the bridge abaft the mast, one low raked funnel, two twin antiaircraft gun mounts side by side just abaft the funnel, and a carriage (sic) with a gun in a shield on the afterdeck. (See Sketch No. 2) In addition to these vessels, there was one corvette which lay in a slip at the shops with the stern pointed out. The angle at which the vessel was observed made it impossible to see either the pennant number or the profile. It had one funnel and one mast. The mast was between the funnel and the bridge, and was a self-stayed grill-work mast with a large American-type radar dome atop it. Informant did not think that it was a Soviet-built vessel but thought that it could be a British corvette of the CASTLE Class.

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4. [redacted] two similar naval vessels were outbound four nautical miles south of Keretakiy Point. [redacted]

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[redacted] They were 125 to 150 feet long, with a raked bow, a break in the deck close to the after edge of the bridge, and a transom stern. Each had one shielded gun on the fore-castle; a long, two-section bridge structure, the after section of which looked narrower than the forward part and had a canvas cover on top; and a funnel with a raked smoke deflector. Close abaft the funnel stood six to eight upright, red painted objects, very like paravanes or large acid or gas bottles. There was one light gun in a shield, a low superstructure on the maindeck, and a deckhouse. (See Sketch No. 3) The vessels were painted gray. [redacted]

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[redacted] a large cruiser was outside the Kola Inlet about 15 nautical miles off land. The ship was sailing on a northwesterly course, then turned northward, and later, eastward. It [redacted] had gun turrets fore and aft, large conning bridge with a lot of equipment on the top, two perpendicular funnels, a high mast forward of each funnel, and a break in the deck abaft the after funnel. The ship was performing gunnery exercises. The flashes from the guns on the fore-castle were observed once. Two other salvos were heard after the vessel disappeared in the haze. The targets and the hits could not be seen. Astern of the cruiser sailed a naval vessel approximately 150 feet long. It was a flush-decker with one mast and two funnels. It emitted much white smoke from the funnels.

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5. [redacted] a naval vessel was lying still due north of the Severnaya Dvina Lightship. It [redacted] was about 180 feet long, with a very high bow which broke down to the main deck in two distinct steps. The anchor was right under the forward step. Two single gun mounts were on the foredeck; the after one of these guns was very long and thin. The midships structure seemed to be placed on the hull after building, that is to say, there were no transition plates between the hull and the superstructure. There were air ports amidships and two oval-shaped life rafts placed one above the other on the bulwark. The bridge had a large spherical range finder on the after edge. A stout raked funnel stood at the after edge of the deck structure; then there was a structure with an antiaircraft gun on the afterdeck, two single-mounted guns, a very low freeboard astern, and a V-shaped stern. (See Sketch No. 4) Twelve flushdecked small vessels with square sterns, and three slightly larger vessels with forecastle, a high oval-shaped funnel, a torpedo tube on the centerline on the afterdeck, and a pointed stern, lay at the naval quay at Solombala. On the quay there were thirty to forty objects resembling pontoons, bowed underneath, and looking as though they could be linked together. They had a rectangular cross section, and were painted dark gray. Some of them looked old. One was open and looked like it was not finished. It was divided into compartments inside. (See Sketch No. 5) Four similar naval vessels were off Sawmill No. 26 enroute down the river out the main channel. [redacted]

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The vessels were 150 to 175 feet long, with a steel hull; flush deck; a sharply raked bow; a gun in a mount on the foredeck; a bridge with signal mast; closely abaft the bridge a very low, stout funnel with an after stay for the antenna; two gun mounts beside each other abaft the funnel; two gun mounts one behind the other on the centerline; and a transom stern. The vessels looked to be completely new and modern. The guns were estimated to be the usual Bofors type and caliber. (See Sketch No. 6)

6. [redacted] a vessel was observed three to four nautical miles in from the Severnaya Dvina Lightship. It [redacted] was about 60 to 65 feet long, and had a clinker-built wooden hull painted gray. It had one and one-half foot high wooden bulwarks, and resembled an ordinary fishing boat. There was a housing turned athwartships on the forecastle. Immediately forward of the mast, there was a tube which rose from the deck and had a dome atop it. The vessel had an ordinary mast with stays and a crow's-nest at the top (See Sketch No. 7), a small pilot house atop the deckhouse, and a short mast with antenna fastening.
7. Up to six or eight minelayers went in and out the Severnaya Dvina each day. They were about 100 feet in length, had a raked bow, one gun on the foredeck, a bridge with a signal mast either at forward edge or in the center, a break in the deck, a funnel, six or eight red-painted containers eight to ten feet long standing upright on each side of the funnel (not paravanes since they did not have wings and rudders; one or two red-painted paravanes were placed horizontally on each side of the afterdeck), davits on the stern, and a transom stern. (See Sketch No. 8) When these vessels came in in the evening, they very frequently had some round objects covered with tarpaulins on the afterdeck. There were always crews in naval uniforms loading waste wood into a barge.
8. There was little traffic at the airfield. Now and then take-offs and landings by green twin-engine transport planes were observed. Three or four silver colored passenger planes were standing on the field.

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[redacted] four men parachute out of one of the green planes. The field had no concrete runways but was, rather, a continuous field of grass. The six or seven semicircular constructions on the south-eastern point of Kegostrov were white-painted corrugated tin quonset huts. There were no military guards to be seen on the field.

25X1

9. Several new barges with a capacity of about 1,000 DWT were seen in Arkhangelsk. They were over 100 feet long, with a steel hull, no engines, a raked bow, a forecastle, many hatches with low coamings, a pilot house astern, and no masts or king posts. Their numbers ran in the 9,000's. They were painted black with a red stripe around the hull. Two barges of this type lay at anchor at Chizhov Island. Each of them had two smaller barges on deck. The smaller barges were about 35 feet long and had a pilot house with a sloping front on the bow, and a box-like structure aft. They very likely had their own engines even though the propellers could not be seen. (See Sketch No. 9) Three or four small tugs were on slips at a shipyard outside Arkhangelsk. They had two propellers built into protective cylinders.
10. [redacted] closed railroad cars on barges come down the river and be pulled ashore on the south side of the waterway. The maximum number of cars seen on one day was six. Four large dredges were at work in the outer channel of the Dvina. The bridge from the city to Solombala was constructed as shown on sketch No. 10. It was of concrete. The depth alongside the quay at Sawmill No. 9/10 was sounded at 16 feet. The difference between low and high tide there was about two feet. At Sawmill No. 16/17 the depth was sounded at 22 feet at low tide. The difference between low and high tide there was a good three feet. It had been indicated that a ship could cross the bar with a 24 foot draft. On the last day in port, this was corrected to 23 feet. The ship passed the bar at high water with a draft of 23 feet 2 inches. A channel across the bar was being dredged. Two or three large dredges were at work in shore from the lightship. Sawmill No. 2 had two loading quays. The northern quay would take two vessels; the southern, one.
11. There was always a patrol boat at the inspection station and likewise off Sawmill No. 2. The latter had a green flag. [redacted]
12. There was a camp with soldiers in army uniform, i.e., red cap band, on Brevennik Island. They were often engaged in loading log ends on wagons and driving them by horse down to the northern quay at Sawmill No. 2. Here the log ends were picked up by lighters manned by navy personnel. The garrison consisted of four officers and 40 to 50 men. On a motor trip from Sawmill No. 26 to Arkhangelsk, a military camp was observed on the right hand side of the road about halfway along the way. The driveway in from the main road had received a new corduroy surfacing. The gate was new. In general, the camp looked to be of a recent date or renovated. There was an undetermined number of soldiers in front of the entrance and on the road along the camp. [redacted]

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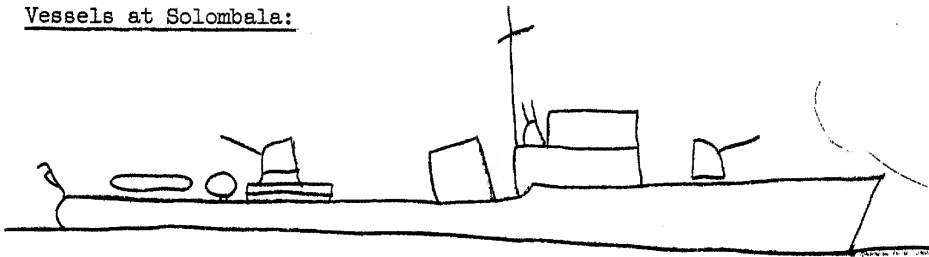
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Sketch No. 1:

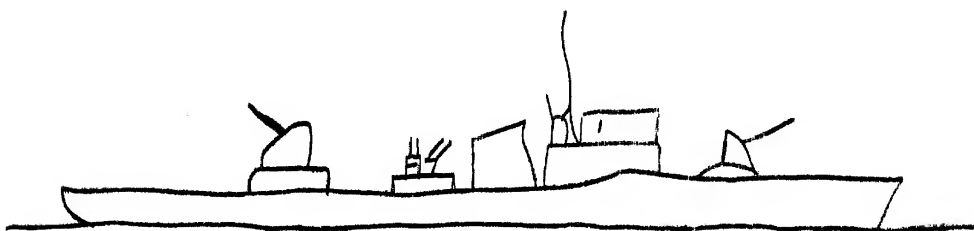
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Vessels at Solombala:



Sketch No. 2:

Vessels at Solombala:



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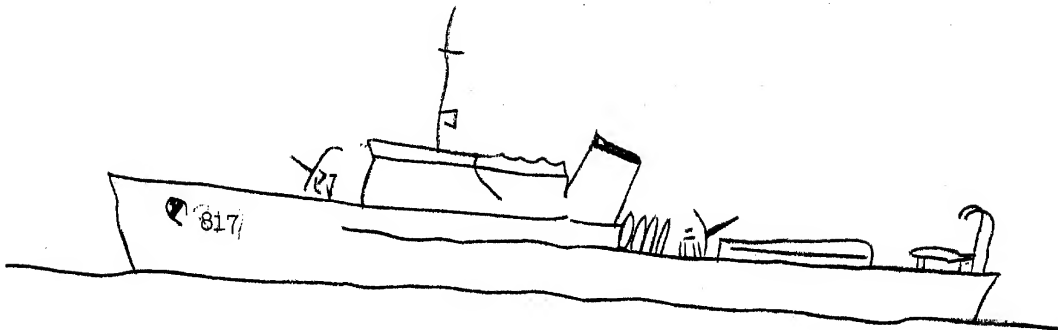
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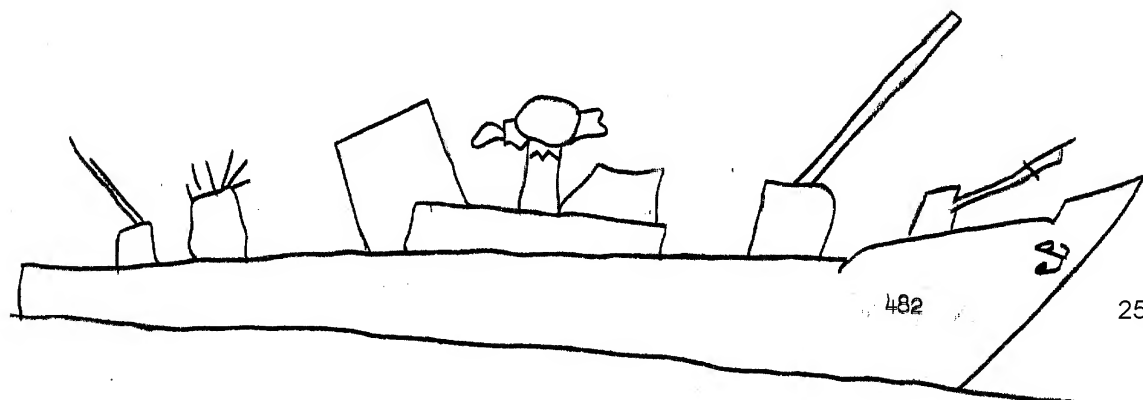
Sketch No. 3:

Vessel off Keretskiy Point:



Sketch No. 4:

Vessel near Severnaya Dvina Lightship:



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Sketch drawn at time of observation. [redacted]

[redacted] there were two gun mounts on the afterdeck.

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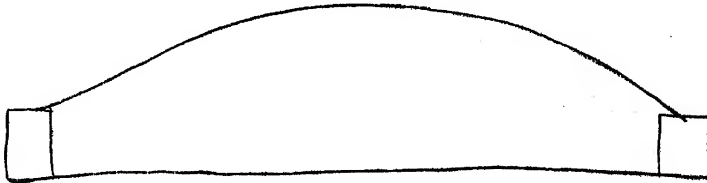
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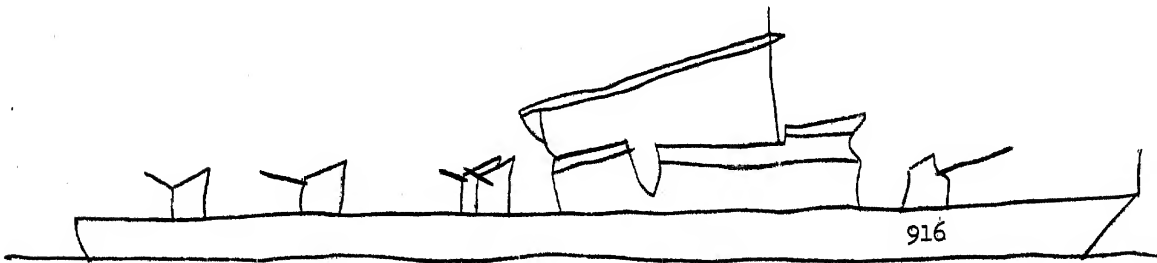
Sketch No. 5:

Pontoonlike objects on quay at Solombala:



Sketch No. 6:

Vessel off Sawmill No. 26:



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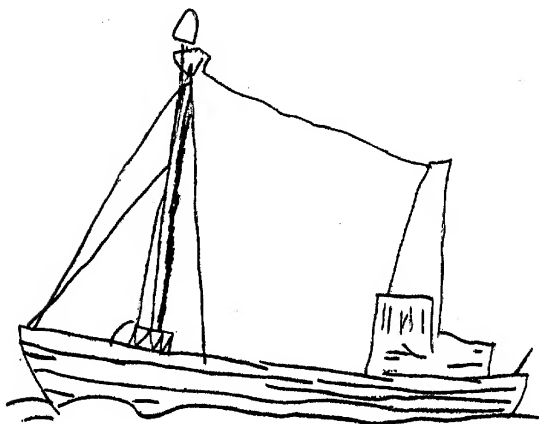
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Sketch No. 7:

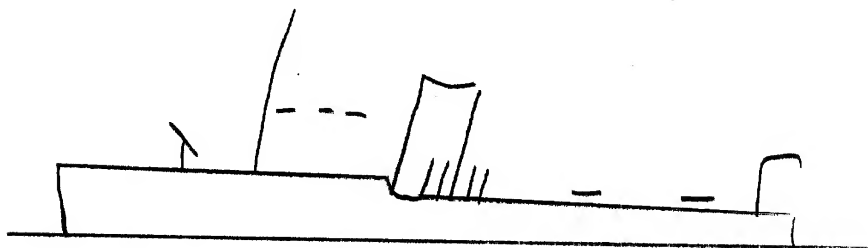
Vessel near the Severnaya Dvina Lightship:



foremast detail

Sketch No. 8:

Minelayers in the Severnaya Dvina River:



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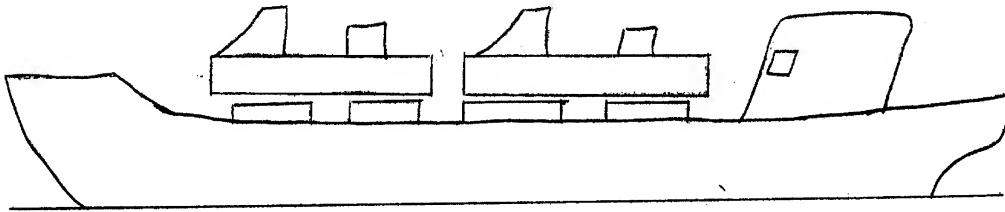
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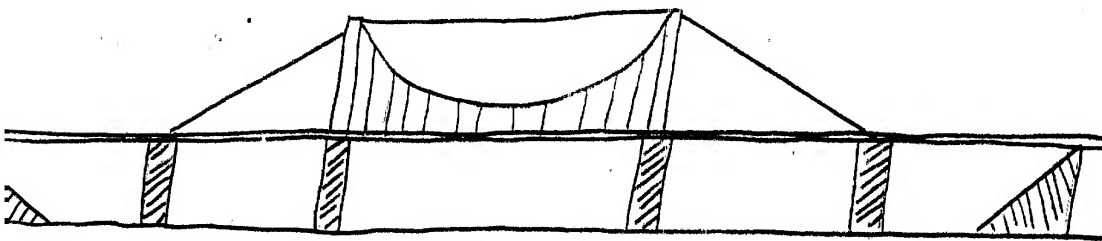
Sketch No. 9:

Lighters at Arkhangelsk:



Sketch No. 10:

Bridge between Solombala and Arkhangelsk:



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25X1

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Sawmill #26

Sketch No. 11:

Military Camp near Arkhangelsk:

240'

X Military Camp

Arkhangelsk

S-E-C-R-E-T

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